

News Release

Senator Pete V. Domenici

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AGREES TO PROVIDE \$33.1 MILLION FOR NEW MEXICO MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Final Passage Needed To Approve Funds for Cannon, Holloman & Kirtland

WASHINGTON -- Senator Pete Domenici, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, today confirmed that Senate and House negotiators have certified his requests for \$33.1 million in military construction funds for projects at military facilities in New Mexico.

A conference committee late Tuesday night reached agreement on the **FY2001 Military Construction Appropriations Bill**. The bill needs final passage from both the House and Senate before it can become law. While the final military construction funding levels are now set, the bill is being held open pending efforts to finalize a FY2000 emergency supplemental appropriations package (*possibly including New Mexico Cerro Grande Fire compensation*) that could be added to the bill.

The FY2001 Military Construction Appropriations Bill includes a total of \$33.1 million secured by Domenici for military construction projects at Cannon, Holloman and Kirtland Air Force Bases in New Mexico, as well as White Sands Missile Range and the New Mexico Army National Guard at Santa Fe.

"We've made progress in making sure that funding is available for necessary safety and structural upgrades at our military bases," Domenici said. "The important missions ongoing at New Mexico facilities are a vital component of the nation's military infrastructure. The funding in this bill will help ensure that our bases retain that vitality."

"For the second year in a row, the president ignored funding needs for New Mexico bases in his budget. I am pleased that the Congress will once again reject the president's inadequate budget by providing this much needed funding to New Mexico defense installations," he said.

In his February budget request, President Clinton did not request any military construction funding for New Mexico military bases.

Military construction appropriations approved for New Mexico include:

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Albuquerque – \$7.352 million to replace Fire/Crash Rescue Station facilities, which are currently located in dilapidated buildings off the

flight line and beyond the flight line security gate.

CANNON AIR FORCE BASE, Clovis – **\$4.93 million to replace the Air Control Tower**, which currently does not have a clear view of all taxiways, leaving controllers unable to see 100 meters of the taxiway where F-16 arming is performed. Concrete chunks fall from the catwalk, temporary tubing has replaced the leaking water lines, and the mechanical systems can no longer heat or cool the tower cab.

HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Alamogordo – **\$18.38 million to replace/repair the Bonito Pipeline** between La Luz, N.M., Alamogordo, and Holloman, a 40-year-old water source critical to the base population, fire fighting and mission operations. Corrosion has weakened the reinforcing steel surrounding the pipeline, and internal water pressures cause frequent failures.

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE – **\$1 million for a Certified Chemistry Lab** at WSMR, a facility that will provide certified analytical tests for hazardous materials and wastes. It will also be used to test water and wastewater in accordance with state and federal environmental laws.

NEW MEXICO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD – **\$1.44 million for planning and design of a new Army Aviation Support Facility** in Santa Fe, a mission critical facility for the 717th Medical Company which provides medical evacuation for the Army when deployed and search and rescue in New Mexico when at home. Current facilities are undersized due to their recent upgrade to large UH-60 helicopters, resulting in most maintenance work taking place on the flight line.